GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2999
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
INDIAN PRISONERS IN BANGLADESH AND NEPAL JAILS
Bhargav Shri Girdhari Lal;Maheshwari Smt. Kiran;Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian prisoners in Bangladesh and Nepal Jails;

(b) the time since when they are in prisons and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to get them released?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) There are 854 Indian nationals imprisoned in various jails in Bangladesh and 339 in Nepal.

(b) & (c) Common charges under which these persons are arrested are illegal trespassing, smuggling etc. The Government of India, through its Missions and Posts abroad and through bilateral meetings with officials of the concerned countries, makes all possible efforts to get Indian nationals in foreign jails released quickly and provide necessary assistance which includes requesting speedy trials, seeking remission of sentence, seeking consular access to the detainees and prisoners, providing advice/guidance in legal and other matters, interacting with their families in India, ensuring fair and humane treatment in foreign jails and facilitating repatriation to India on their eventual release.